



ICLA

Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs

IOWA COMMISSION OF LATINO AFFAIRS REPORT

July 2016-February 2016

PROJECTS

ACTIVITY	DATE	COMMISSIONERS & STAFF PRESENT	SUMMARY
Centro Informativo Latino	Ongoing	Juan Rodriguez & Sonia Reyes-Snyder	The commission is currently in the process of creating an online Spanish language Resource Center.
40 th Anniversary Even	April 8, 2017	Events Committee Jeannette Martinez Juan Rodriguez Marlu Abarca Sonia Reyes-Snyder	<p>This event will have the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Resource booths for constituents2. Food vendors3. Dance <p>This event will collect funds for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Latino Hall of Fame Awards• Scholarships for Latino youth in Iowa. <p>Commissioners and the office have been meeting and working hard on finalizing details for this event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parranderos Latin Combo has agreed to provide entertainment• Local immigration attorneys will provide free legal advice during the event <p>Presenters will bring information to the community</p>
Latino Hall of Fame Awards	October 2017	Events Committee Jeannette Martinez Juan Rodriguez Marlu Abarca Sonia Reyes-Snyder	<p>The commission will give Orgullo Latino Awards to an individual, a business and an organization.</p> <p>This award ceremony will be at the Department of Cultural Affairs and Awards will be displayed at the Historical Building.</p>

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Latin American Countries to visit Iowa	October 2017	Events Committee Jeannette Martinez Juan Rodriguez Marlu Abarca Sonia Reyes-Snyder	Consulates have been invited to visit Iowa during Latino Heritage Month to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with the Governor • Q & A at the Capitol with constituents • Provide consulate services • Present Orgullo Latino Awards to recipients
Meeting with University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Administration		Jeannette Martinez Marlu Abarca Michelle Reuss Sonia Reyes-Snyder	Commissioners met with staff to discuss options for patients who need the hospital's services but don't have the ability to pay.
Cedar Rapids Latino Festival Informational Booth	09/18	Alejandro Pino Marlu Abarca Michelle Reuss Sonia Reyes-Snyder	Commissioners provided information about the Commission, Welcome to Iowa Brochure and handed out gift cards that were donated by commissioners.
Latino Heritage Festival in Des Moines-Informational Booth	09/24 & 09/25	Jeannette Martinez Juan Rodriguez Marlu Abarca Sonia Reyes-Snyder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioners provided information about the Commission, Welcome to Iowa Brochure and handed out gift cards that were donated by commissioners. • Attendees got their picture taken in front of our DHR/Latino Affairs backdrop holding a sign where they wrote positive messages about the Latino culture. (some pictures are attached) • A video compiling all the pictures taken was emailed in the Newsletter.
18 th Annual Latinx Professional Development Conference in Iowa City	10/07	Jeannette Martinez Marlu Abarca Sal Alaniz Sonia Reyes-Snyder	Sonia and Commissioners facilitated the Advocacy 101 track at this conference. Attendees got to know more about commissioners and how to teach their clients to self-advocate and where to gather resources.
Letter was sent to the Governor in support of Driver's Licenses for all Iowa Residents	January 9, 2017	All Commissioners	The attached letter was sent to the Governor.
Legislative Training	February 12, 2017	Marlu Abarca Sonia Reyes-Snyder	Marlu, the Office in partnership with SURJ (Speak Up for Racial Justice) put on a Legislative Training for the Latino Community in Des Moines; there were 89 people in attendance.



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Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs

January 9, 2017

Honorable Governor Branstad,

The Commission of Latino Affairs consists of seven Iowans appointed by your office whose job, in part under [Iowa Code 216A.12](#), is to make recommendations to the Governor's office and legislators on issues that impact the Latino population of Iowa.

The Commission of Latino Affairs formally recommends that Iowa joins the 12 other states to ensure public safety through driver licenses for all residents regardless of immigration status.

Benefits of driver licenses for all:

Safer Roads

- Licensed drivers are safer. They are trained, know the rules of the road, register their cars and are insured.
- Licensed drivers are more likely to stay at an accident scene to help police/EMTs and exchange insurance information

Safer Community

- Officers will be able to check identity, traffic/other records of the people they contact
- Immigrant crime witnesses and victims will be more likely to trust police and report crimes
- There will be more organ donors through driver's license registration

Financial Benefits

- Save public resources in court time for driving without license/insurance
- State receives revenue from registered drivers
- Stimulates the economy-immigrants can better get to work, school, make large/small purchases
- Decrease insurance rates due to fewer uninsured motorist costs

We would like to set up a time to meet with you and your staff to further discuss this matter. We thank you in advance for your consideration and are eager to hear your response.

Respectfully,

Michelle Reuss, Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs Chair

Jeannette Martinez, Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs Co-Chair

Marlu Abarca, Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs Secretary

Alejandro Pino

Juan Rodriguez

Sal Alaniz

Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs

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